Panchayats shortly. A new set of elected representatives have assumed office. The Ministry of Panchayati Raj shall assist the Government of Karnataka in capacity building and training of these representatives.

- In order to build capacity and leadership among categories for whom seats are reserved, Karnataka shall consider favourably the slowing down of the reservation cycle so that the option to reserve seats for more than one-term is open but it is for the State Legislature to decide the number of terms for which seats will remain reserved.
- The Union Ministry of Panchayati Raj will pursue the devolution of Central funds through united block grants, and systemic reform of Centrally sponsored Schemes, including the establishment of a Panchayat Empowerment Incentive Fund to bring these in conformity with the constitutional provisions for good governance at the district and sub-district levels as set out in Part IX read with the relevant articles of Part IXA.

Non-utilisation of Central funds earmarked for rural development

4260. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA:
SHRIMATI KAMLA MANHAR:

Will the Minister of PANCHAYATI RAJ be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a large chunk of Central funds earmarked for rural development have not been used because of inability of Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) to identify different projects;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the total amount sanctioned or recommended by the Twelfth Finance Commission for Panchayats; and

(d) what will be the method used by the Centre to ensure that PRIs complete the activity mapping within a time bound programme?

THE MINISTER OF PANCHAYATI RAJ (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) No, Sir. The Sampoorn Grameen Rozgar Yojana is being implemented by the Panchayats at the three levels of Districts, Block and Village. Resources under the scheme are shared in the ratio of 20:30:50 between District, Intermediate and Gram Panchayats. During the year

2003-04, as reported by the States/UT Administrations, 85.52% of total available funds under the Scheme have been utilized by the Panchayats. As reported to the Union Ministry of Rural Development, which is the administering Ministry, upto January, 2005, 64% of available funds had been utilized by the Panchayats. The administering Ministry have added that the reasons for lower utilisation in some States/UT Administrations in comparison to better performing States/UT Administrations are twofold; difficulties faced and lifting foodgrains from the Food Corporation of India godowns and lower demand for wage employment.

(c) Government have accepted the recommendations of the Twelfth Finance Commission in respect of local bodies. When these recommendations are implemented, the financial commitment on the part of the Union Government will be of the order of the Rs. 20,000 crore for Panchayats for the five-year period 2005-06 to 2009-10.

(d) A meeting of the Chief Secretaries and Secretaries of Panchayati Raj was held on 11th April, 2005 under the Chairmanship of Secretary, Ministry of Panchayati Raj to assess the action taken by the States to complete the process of activity mapping. It was found that activity mapping which should have been completed by now has not been completed and it was, therefore, decided that States should complete the same by the end of the first quarter of the current financial year

Wind Power Farms of ONGC

4261. SHRI N.R. GOVINDARAJAR: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether ONGC proposes to set up Wind Power Farms in various parts of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the places selected for this purpose; and

(c) the estimated expenditure likely to be incurred in such projects?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) have initiated a study on renewable and non-renewable sources of energy, including wind energy.

(c) As the study is at an initial stage, any estimation of expenditure on wind power projects could be pre-mature.